

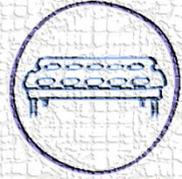


**Marist Brothers – Irmãos I**  
Province of Southern Africa – Província da

## **NEWSLETTER**

**2017 May - June**

**Vol.2 #6**



2016|2017

La Valla

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# OFFICIAL RECEPTION OF FIRST-YEAR NOVICES



**New Novices with Br António Pisco, Br Emmanuel Mwanalirenji and Br Norbert Mwila**

**A**fter a long wait of nearly two months, the novices-to-be finally arrived at the novitiate. We were in high spirits and they too were contented to start the novitiate. They were officially accepted on 1 April 2017 in a vibrant and well-thought-out ceremony. Our Chaplain, Father Petros, led the Eucharistic celebration at 11h 00.

During the celebration, the Master of novices, Brother Emmanuel, exhorted to them to be good Marist Novices and to embrace the formation process. The provincial Brother Norbert challenged them to be the main artisans of their own formation as they journey towards holiness. Thereafter we had a special meal and the 2nd-year novices performed a number of activities. As they start the canonical year we wish the 1<sup>st</sup>-years

the graces they need from above. A journey of a thousand miles begins with but a single step.

\*

*(Henry Ngeli  
2<sup>nd</sup>-year novice)*



Felismino  
Inocencio  
Agostinho MO



Hamupembe  
Emiliano  
Venodino  
Mulukeni AN



Kadyandawa  
Innocent MA



Marinoh Alexious  
Innocent MA



Matias Costenes  
João MO



Mitunda Charles  
Herbart MA



Ngongue José  
Dundu AN



Palanga Filipe AN



Sakala Daniel ZA



Taonele Benson  
Jackson MA



Tchaculanda  
Pascoal AN

# MESSAGE FROM BROTHER NORBERT

## *Partnership in Marist Mission*

**M**y recent visits across the Province have given rise to an utmost appreciation of Marist Lay involvement with the Brothers in the mission of the Church. I see a partnership and a lively collaboration that cannot be over emphasised. There are those laypersons who are seen as already living in the Marist way due to their daily-lived experiences and deepened by Marist Formation programmes they have had at some stage.

Then those who are beginners and already on board with an open mind and heart to embrace the Marist way and values employed in the education system that gives special attention to the Marist Core values.

It is of great importance to realise the significant number of **laywomen** involved in Marist mission. For those in Schools, the majority are on the teaching staff with a considerable number holding leadership positions mostly in South Africa.

The remarkable presence of laywomen (as Mary was in the life and mission of her son) is a fine example of the importance of a feminine presence in our mission that has much to do with poor children and young people. Women have natural and distinctive qualities that serve to touch needy poor children and young people who are mostly the focus of the Marist mission.

The Three2Six programme at Sacred Heart College in Johannesburg comes to mind where the refugee children enjoy the warmth of hospitality in the school environment and experience being freely loved and cared for. This form of outreach impressed me at the time I read an article on Simphiwe Tshabalala, CEO of Standard Bank (the largest bank in Africa) in a glossy magazine intended for top-flight professionals. “Sim” is a former student of SHC: in the article he described Sacred Heart College as a “very special school” and commended it for its leadership in innovation and transformation.



I have been equally impressed to meet some non-teaching staff who also do exceptionally well in their varied services. A case in point was a lady I met at St. Charles Lwanga Secondary School in Malawi who was impressive in the way she served and attended to the boys in the dining hall.

Recently I was in Uitenhage, where I met groups of women who are in ministry with the Brothers of attending to the needy children and young people through the “Marist Care” programmes of running soup kitchens in Uitenhage and the schools in the Addo Valley (*cf. picture above*).

Accordingly, I have the following message for the readers of this Newsletter. Grow in appreciations of those who are in partnership in Marist mission, particularly the women who support us so admirably. **[Continued overleaf >>> ]**



**Children of Refugees at Sacred Heart College**



Mary notices that "they have no wine"

- embrace Mary's spirit of openness leading Brothers and Lay to share and collaborate in the mission of her son to bring tenderness, peace and healing to our troubled world.
- embrace Mary's spirit of discernment where God's will, project and agenda take precedence.
- embrace Mary's spirit that leads us to make enormous strides in promoting the vocation of the Lay Marist.
- celebrate the month of Mary in our communities, schools and parishes and, if possible with children, young people, Lay Marists and other members of the faithful.

Let us then:

- embrace Mary's yes and spirit of service in giving herself for others.
- embrace Mary's unwavering spirit of attentive listening and constructive dialogue.

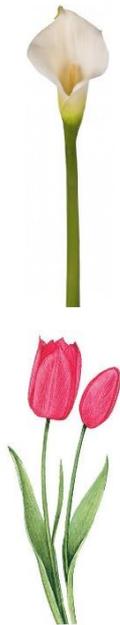
Mary our Good Mother,  
lead us to Christ.

*St. Norbert*  
NORBERT



## BIRTHDAYS

MAY	
01-05-1987	Godfrey Kadzuwa
01-05-1993	Guilherme Aly (nov.adm.2016)
06-05-1967	Arthur Ganiza
08-05-1936	Jesus Sánchez Martin
09-05-1984	Victor Mwamba
10-05-1956	António Sanasan
11-05-1971	Gilbert Zenda
15-05-1975	Kasongo Mwape
15-05-1994	Mineses Artur (nov.adm.2016)
17-05-1982	Chrisantius Mwansa
23-05-1941	Neil McGurk
24-05-1994	Peter Joseph (nov.adm.2016)
25-05-1987	Joseph Daka
25-05-1991	António Armando
25-05-1992	Yob Mathias
30-05-1995	Constantino Tchilungo (nov.ad.2016)
30-05-1996	Daniel Sakals (nov.adm.2017)
31-05-1936	Christopher Zimmermann



11-06-1973	Lourenço Sapalo
11-06-1973	Stephen Phiri
11-06-1990	Manuel Pombo (nov.ad.2016)
12-06-1996	Paul Chikaola (nov.ad.2016)
13-06-1964	Bernard Chirombe
13-06-1992	António Kasombo (nov.ad.2016)
14-06-1958	Simeon Banda
14-06-1990	Manuel Simão
17-06-1984	Dominic Nyoni
24-06-1992	Kudakwashe Blessed Vambe
25-06-1983	Peter Zulu
25-06-1984	Davy Mbasela
27-06-1984	Carlos Catole
30-06-1990	Celestino Ngonjo

JUNE	
02-06-1994	Anderson Kafatsa (nov.ad.2016)
03-06-1958	Joseph Murakho
09-06-1933	Fernand Dostie
09-06-1989	Steven Chinsolo

JULY	
09-07-1992	Elia Madimba
23-07-1985	Boston Ngulube
25-07-1970	Vigirio Bwalya
26-07-1992	Stephen Muleba
28-07-1978	José Hebo Francisco ("Richa")
29-07-1969	Geraldo Medida



## “SENDEROS” (PATHWAYS) PROGRAMME IN MANZIANA



Spot our Participants: Patrick Bushilya, Evans Musakanya, Alexander Damalekani, Stephen Phiri and, of course, Teófilo Minga

**T**he “Senderos” programme was launched on March 1 for a group of English speaking, middle-aged Brothers. Senderos, which is held in Manziana, Italy, will finish on May 26.

Fourteen Brothers are taking part in the programme, with two other Brothers as guides.

Eleven of them come from Africa, from the Southern Africa province, from the Nigeria province and from the West Africa district. The other three participants come from Asia, from the East Asia province and from the Marist District of Asia.

Father Joseph Milla, of Nigeria, is accompanying the group as their chaplain.

The course’s topics are around the current Marist world and will include different speakers of the general administration: superior general Brother Emili Turú, vicar general Brother Joe McKee, director of the Brothers Today secretariat Brother Tony Leon, general councillor Brother Michael de Waas and director of ‘*Commission for Mission, International*’ Brother Chris Wills.

Brother Seán Sammon will present the topic of community life; Brother Albert Nzabonaliba will cover the topic of discernment; a Marist sister will reflect on Mary and Marian spirituality; and the superior general of the Marist Missionary Sisters and liturgist, Sister

Georgeanne Donovan, will accompany the group throughout the whole Paschal Triduum.

Other topics will respond to concrete problems related to this age period, such as “the health of middle-aged people.”

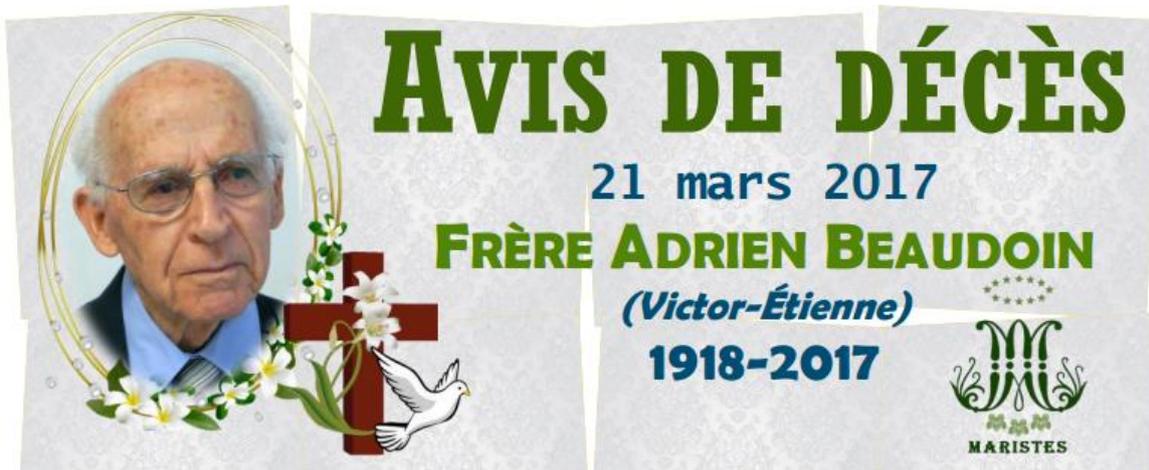
The course will finish with some important educational complements: an experience of solidarity, especially with refugees; a three-day pilgrimage to the Franciscan city of Assisi; and a pilgrimage to Marist places during the first 12 days of May.

In addition, attending a Papal general audience on a Wednesday and visiting the archives of the General House has become tradition.

Another novelty of this course will be the presence of a group of 11 Marist Missionary Sisters who will receive a joint formation on the topics of health and community life for two weeks.

Aside from it being a sabbatical rest from years in Marist works, the goal of the course is also for it to be a time of reflection and an exchanging of life experiences among brothers.

This all aims to help participants effectively and spiritually articulate the future of their Marist lives, providing the best answers to the challenges facing the Marist life in the third centenary of its existence.



**I**t is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing on of Brother Adrien Beaudoin of the community of Château-Richer. Br Adrien was born on 14 April 1918 at Saint-Félicien (Lac St-Jean) in Quebec and died on 21 March 2017, at the age of 98 years and 11 months, in his 80<sup>th</sup> year of religious profession.

He had worked as a teacher for 15 years in Québec City, Montréal, Lac-St-Jean, and the USA before departing for the Canadian mission in Malawi. During his long life, he also worked in Centre-Afrique, at MIC, in

Mozambique at our novitiate, in South Africa, and even in Haiti. For four years he was a secretary in the General House as part of the Commission on Poverty and Justice. He was a gentle man, and talented musician. He served as organist and teacher of music.

Among his qualities, we may mention his affability, his courtesy, his availability, his ability to get on with the job, and adapt himself to both people and the local environment.

**May he now rest in Peace in the choir of Angels!**



## CREATIVE PROJECTS BY THE “BLUE MARISTS” IN ALEPPO



Our **ADULT TRAINING CENTER** the “MIT”, continues to organize two seminars a month on specific topics for the adults aged 20 to 45 years. In February, Br. Georges led a workshop on the theme “**From Forgiveness to Reconciliation**”, and we are considering, due to its importance, to expand it to other groups soon.

Convinced of the need to help the young adults to work, to live and to get out of the vicious circle, - war-catastrophic economic situation - unemployment-poverty - assistantship or migration, we organized, at the end of 2016, a seminar of 100 hours over two months for the young people aged 20 to 35 on the theme “**HOW TO START YOUR OWN PROJECT**”. Twenty participants learned from the best experts how to think, realize and develop a project. At the end of the session, the jury selected the 4 best achievable projects in terms of profitability and chances of success, and we partially funded them. Because of the success of the project, we have just started a second session with 15 participants. **(Continued overleaf >>>)**

**W**e, the **Blue Marists**, don't have neither the abilities, the skills nor the mission to participate in the reconstruction of the city. On the other hand, we believe that **HUMAN RECONSTRUCTION** is the most important and we are putting, within our abilities, all our efforts behind it. This is how we have further developed our educational projects and initiated new ones.

Several educational and psychological support projects have recently been launched.



**“CUT-AND-SEW”** allows about thirty ladies to learn to sew and make clothes for their families and also to find a job in the sewing workshops that are opening and looking for workers. The first class will soon finish their 4 months of training and there are numerous applicants for the next session. We take advantage of their presence in the sewing classes to organize, for them, personal training and psychological support.

**“HOPE”** is a project that aims to teach a foreign language, English or French, to young mothers who have children in the elementary schools. Indeed, since first grade, the program imposes teaching a foreign language to the young children. Teaching the mothers, allows them, in addition to providing a personal satisfaction, to be able to follow the studies of their children.

**“DOUROUB”** welcomes the **children aged 10 to 11** years who have been neglected so far by our projects. With a team of 3 educators, they get together for educational and recreational activities.

**“ERADICATION OF ILLITERACY”** continues on two levels. The higher level, for those who have already participated in a 1st session of two months, to teach them the 3rd grade level. Which means to make sentences, read them and write them. And the beginners level with a group of parents or of illiterate young adults to help them learn to write and read words.

**“SKILL SCHOOL”** for 75 teenagers, **“Learn to Grow”** and **“I Want to Learn”** with 200 children aged 3 to 6, are continuing, more than ever, their very beautiful programs to educate, teach and support children and young people.

Our various relief programs continue to help the displaced and the poorest. **“THE BLUE MARISTS FOR**

**THE DISPLACED”** help approximately 1000 families, Christians and Muslims, to survive thanks to the distribution of fairly consistent monthly food and sanitary baskets, money to pay for 1 ampere of electricity purchased from private generators, and a monthly voucher to buy meat or chicken. We are also helping the displaced families pay the rent of their temporary housing.

The program **“WAR WOUNDED CIVILIANS”**, which for many years, treated and saved thousands of wounded, is fortunately slowing down with the liberation of Aleppo ; but we continue to treat either new wounded injured by mines left by the rebels prior to their departure, or formerly injured persons already treated, but who need further treatment or other surgical procedures.

On the other hand **“THE BLUE MARISTS MEDICAL PROGRAM”** grew much more because of the increase in poverty, unemployment and the cost of living. For the patients who cannot afford it, we contribute to the costs of surgeries, hospital stays and inpatient treatments, or simply prescriptions costs (the price of locally manufactured drugs has just been increased by 400%), X-rays, scans and laboratory tests.

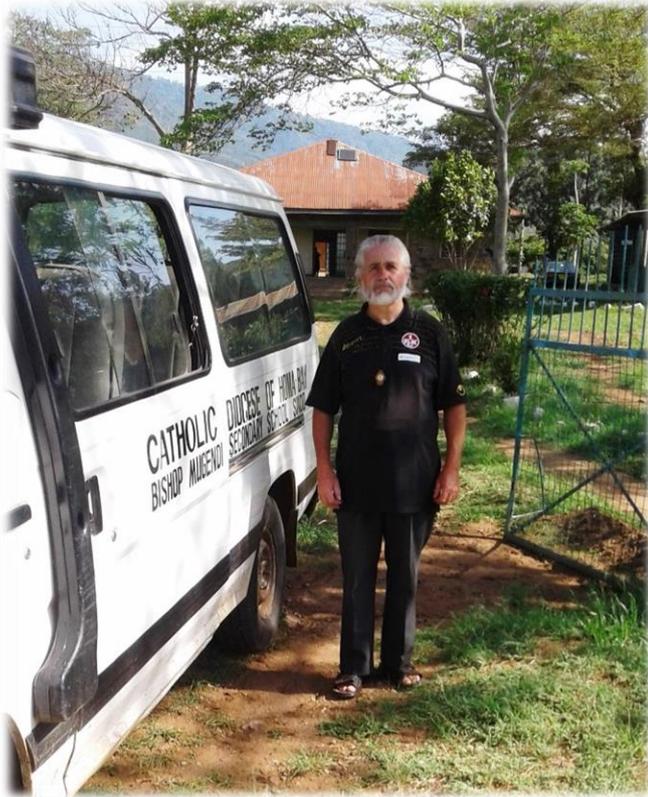
**“I AM THIRSTY”** distributes water, with our 4 vans, daily to the homes of 40-45 families. Due to the difficulty of refilling our vans with water from the wells drilled almost everywhere in Aleppo -which are stormed by crowds of people from 8am to 10pm- and the lost time waiting for their turn, we started drilling our own well. This will enable us to rapidly replenish the vans and distribute water daily to more families.

**FINALLY, “DROP OF MILK”** is at its 23rd months of milk distribution to 3000 children each month. This project is essential to the growth and development of our children and has not stopped for a single day despite the difficulty of obtaining milk, especially the formula for the infants, and the high cost of the project



## PHOTO TIME

### LEAVING KENYA FOR THE LAST TIME



**BROTHER ANDREAS KRUPP** had scarcely turned 30 when he was a member of the pioneer of group of Marist Brothers including citizens of Germany, Ireland and Scotland, that accepted the invitation of the Bishop of Kisii, to staff the Bishop Mugendi Secondary School near Roo on the shores of Lake Victoria. This community formed in 1984 preceded the establishment of Marist International Centre in Nairobi by some two years.

Andreas was loved by the people of South Nyanza (especially the children who knew him as “Dreas”) on account of his practical care for their health, and for many other services.

Most of his time in Kenya was spent at Roo. When the Brothers handed the school back to the Bishop, he settled in the small village of Tmaini about 25 km as the crow flies! from Nakuru.

This recent nostalgic picture shows him for the last time at the gate leading to Bishop Mugendi School. He flew out of Kenya on Palm Sunday.

### BROTHERS IN LEBANON

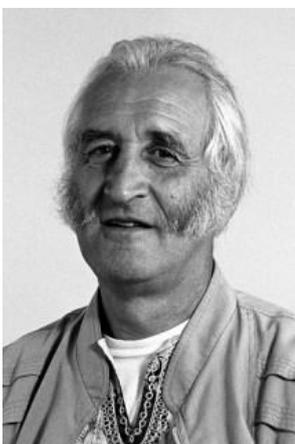
#### A TRULY INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

**Seated R to L:** Jean-Claude Robert-France 86; Augustine Naatey-Ghana 40; Georges Trad-Lebanon 65; André Delalande France 99

**Standing R to L:** Oliver Tata-Cameroon 46; Antoine Jarjour-Syria 71; José María Ferre-Spain 71; Alfred Ngaro-Chad 34; Georges Hakim-Syria 71; Carlos Mario McEwen-Colombia 56  
8 countries! 4 continents!



### RETIRING FROM THE LECTURE ROOM AFTER 100 SEMESTERS!



Bethlehem **FATHER LUIGI CLERICI** (who was living and lecturing at MIC from 1988 to 2003) wrote as follows on 5 April 2017:

“I am actually teaching my hundreth's semester (sabbaticals included), certainly a world record, ending with oral exams on 29th of April. Then three months leave in Switzerland most beautiful on the planet.

“Inshallah = if Allah so wishes, return to retirement in the forest at Ngong Hills, where the parish president invites me to his home. Nearby is a tiny palliative care hospital recently built by a Gikuyu millionaire USA resident, if I should become a nursing patient.

“Will be buried awaiting skeleton's resurrection at the clarion call if Paul is correct, at Utume Salesians' seminary grounds, opposite to your MIUC!”



## **BROTHER EMILI TURÚ received by POPE FRANCIS Pontiff acknowledges 200 years of Marist mission and life**

**P**ope Francis received superior general Brother Emili Turú at the library of the Apostolic Palace on April 10, in the context of the Institute's celebration of the Bicentenary.

During the encounter, which began at 10am, Br Emili gave the pontiff a book of photographs of the **Fratelli Project** in Rmeileh, Lebanon, taken by Marco Amato in 2016.

In turn, the Holy Father thanked him and made a dedication in a volume for the collaborators of the Project. He also sent a special blessing to the Blue Marists of Syria.

Pope Francis delivered a message to the Marists of Champagnat (to be published in the near future.).



## **MEETING OF BURSARS OF ALL OUR MARIST AU'S including the General Council, the Commission for Economic Affairs, the Secretariat for Mission and others**



*Among those spotted by the Editor: Emili Turú, Joe McKee & several Councillors; Adrienne Egbers; Everson from Brazil; Nicholas Banda; Teo Grageda; Libardo Garzon; John Bwanali, Teófilo Minga (?)(!!) ...*



La Valla:  
the  
lighthouse

## GEMS FROM EMILI TURÚ



Champagnat House in La Valla is not only the home of Marcellin and the first Brothers but also Mary's home

The home of Champagnat and of Mary becomes for us a **lighthouse**: a reference point in middle of the darkness by which to navigate and reach a safe harbour.

In this house our first Brothers filled their eyes and hearts with light. They let themselves be invaded by a light that filled their lives with meaning and lit up the pathways of their life's pilgrimage. Today the house of La Valla continues to be a source of light for our spirituality. **It points out the pathway for us to follow**; a road that each of us is invited to walk along in our own unique and original way. More than that, along this road we are called to become each one of us a lighthouse for others.



Are you really **living** or simply **surviving**?

God is present in the **here and now**, we do not have to go around looking for God elsewhere.

In this article, he spoke of a study conducted in the United States among young adults. These young people used their cellphones on average five hours per day, on 85 separate occasions. Similar to what happens with most addicted people, they were not aware that they were spending so much time on their cellphones. Yet the truth is that, whether they were aware or not, a new technology has taken control of approximately a third of the hours that these young people are awake.

Father Champagnat, according to the testimonies of our first Brothers, lived steeped in the presence of God.



## A FIRST TRIP TO ROME

**A**s the incoming Provincial Secretary of the Southern Africa Province, the Provincial offered me the opportunity to go to our General House in Rome to learn from the Secretary General (Bro. Carlos) and his team about the duties and responsibilities of the Provincial Secretary (3rd-7th April). In addition to that, I was introduced to the new system of the Institute KOSMOS that is used for data entry. KOSMOS is a new unique comprehensive online database for capturing all the important data of the Brothers and those who are our associates in our work. KOSMOS is designed in four official languages of our Institute that is English, Portuguese, Spanish and French.

With this comprehensive secure system the Province Secretary is able to enter name of the Brother, roles and responsibilities in the community, appointments in the Administrative Unit, religious belonging (i.e Postulancy, Novitiate, up to the time of final profession). This electronic online system was tailor made for our Institute and the server is hosted in Curitiba-Brazil. In entering records of the Brothers the system deals with actual and anticipated situation which are realities of our life and it has a human interface. Explicitly in the event of separation from the Institute, death of a Brother or suspension this can easily be captured in the system as well. In addition to that the system has also similar components that deal with goods and property of the Institute, our mission,

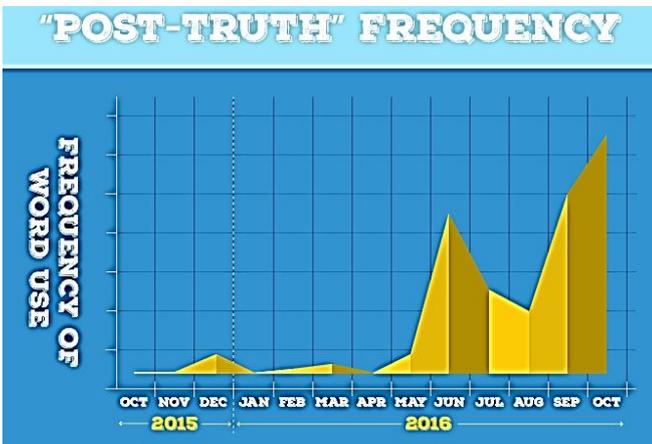
apostolate and an accounting system, for the whole Institute taking into account the diverse cultural, social and economic contexts.

Teodore Gregeda from PACE Province also attended this short course. Our 'teacher' was very patient and took us step by step in the database system. On behalf of my fellow student Teodore, I am very grateful for the time we spent in Rome learning from Emanuela, Roberta and Brother Carlos. The visit to Rome also gave us an opportunity to visit the Vatican City and other important religious places during our free time. I also want to thank our Bro. Norbert and Mario for the time he spent explaining to me the different duties of the Province Secretary when I passed through Johannesburg en route to Rome.

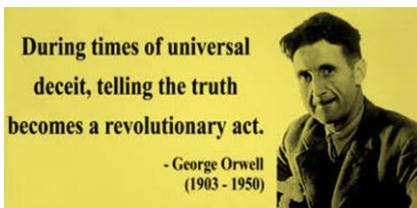


# POST-TRUTH

**P**ost-truth has been chosen as the word of the year 2016 by Oxford Dictionaries lexicographers since, according to them, their use increased by 2000% over the year ending.



Post-truth means that truth and objective facts are irrelevant, and have less influence on opinion-making than calls to emotion or personal beliefs. In other words: lie blatantly, if this is useful to win votes. The examples they used to support their post-truth election as word of the year were the pro-Brexit and Mr. Trump campaigns.

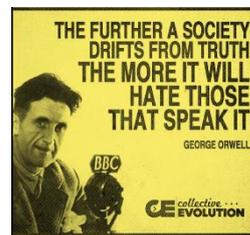


I wondered for days what influence this post-truth era was having on our lives and what it meant for religious life. In this sense, my participation in the Assembly of the Union of Superiors General (USG) from 23 to 25 November was very illuminating.

In particular, the intervention of Michael Anthony Perry, Superior General of the Franciscans (OFM), who

explained to us, in all simplicity and transparency, his experience of institutional failure, specifically about financial mismanagement. They could have opted to hide the problem and seek alternative solutions, but chose to opt for truth and transparency because - he said - truth contains a hidden power, and only through the search for truth will it be possible to live the true nature of our Vocation, which is charismatic and prophetic.

They preferred the truth, because the opposite meant sacrificing their own dignity, identity and authenticity, as well as the call to be a prophetic voice before the world.



**Is not this the answer to my question about what is the role of religious life in this world where post-truth becomes the word of the year?**

Faced with the temptation to reproduce what is happening in our societies, we are called to adopt the prophetic position of going counter-current, especially when it comes to our own institutional sins. Faced with the temptation to ignore reality or to protect the institution at all costs, we opt for truth and justice, which are obviously not at variance with mercy.

*Mercy and truth meet; Justice and peace kiss*  
(Ps 85,10)

*(This article by Br Emili Turú appeared in Vida Religiosa in February 2017)*



- **PEACE** in Syria, Yemen, South Sudan, D.R. Congo, Centre-Afrique, ...
- Brothers & their families who have recently been bereaved:  
**Alexander Damalekani,**
- Preparations for the **22<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL CHAPTER** to be held in Colombia.
- In **THANKSGIVING** for **150 years of Marist presence in Africa**, and for the spread of our ministry to 20 countries.

# Commemorating 150 Years in Africa

## MARIST BROTHERS DONATE A MEMORIAL PLAQUE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ART GALLERY

**T**he story of the Marist Brothers who became the pioneers of our presence in Africa was told in the previous issue of this Newsletter. Several illustrative photos were included in the article.

On 25<sup>th</sup> May, the Brothers presented a newly-made brass plaque to the Iziko South African National Gallery for installation in the Annexe, formerly the single building that housed both St Aloysius' Primary School and the Brothers' residence.

The simple ceremony on Tuesday 25 April (held in the library) was attended by a number of Iziko personnel as well as four Brothers, Mike Greeff (Director of the Marist



**Br. Joseph Walton with Dr Bongani Ndhlovu**

Shown from left to right in the picture: Father Stan Botha, former pupil of Saint Aloysius'; Br Mario Colussi; Mr Mike Greeff; Caron Derby-Lewis, primary principal at St Joseph's; Kervin Grove, head of St Joseph's; Brother Rufino Macimcuele; Dr Bongani Ndhlovu; Ms. Val Vella, former teacher at St Aloysius'; Br Joe Walton; & Br Gerónimo Raimundo.

**SAINT ALOYSIUS' SCHOOL**

From April 1867 to December 1970, this building, now the Annexe to the Iziko South African National Gallery, housed the first Marist Brothers school in Africa.

Founded in France by Saint Marcellin Champagnat in 1817, the Institute of the Marist Brothers at present educates and cares for youth in 80 countries, including 20 in Africa.

After its closure on this site, Saint Aloysius' Primary School for boys was moved, successively to two different church properties in the City Bowl, until, in 1985, it was finally incorporated into Saint Joseph's Marist College in Rondebosch.

Presented by the Marist Brothers to the Iziko South African National Gallery in April 2017 to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Brothers in the Cape and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Institute.

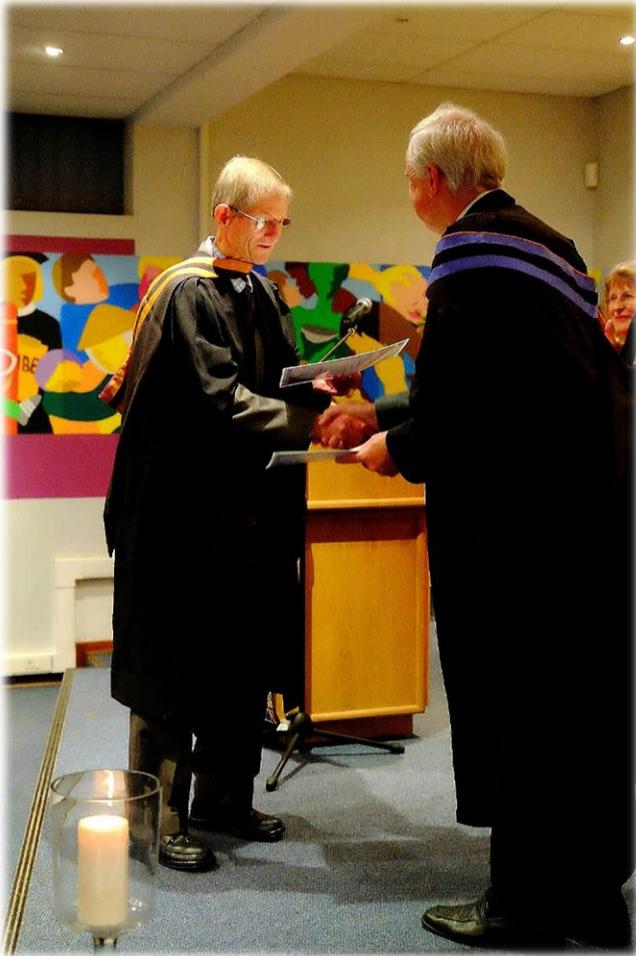
Schools Council), Mike Thiel (the Head of St David's Marist College in Johannesburg), the Primary and Secondary Principals as well as several staff members of St Joseph's Marist College, and also friends and associates. The text on the plaque is reproduced above. The library of the National Gallery is now housed in the former school hall where the plaque will eventually be installed.

Notably, among the speakers for the occasion were two who reminisced on their memories of St Aloysius': a former pupil of the school and a former teacher. of The presentation to Dr Bongani Ndhlovu, the Acting CEO of the IZIKO Museums of South Africa, was done by, Brother Joe Walton.



# BROTHER JUDE PIETERSE RECEIVES A SPECIAL AWARD

## Catholic University acknowledges his contribution to the “Common Good”



contributed in some way to the welfare and improvement of society.

The list of previous recipients includes several well-known international figures:

- Most Rev [Pius Ncube](#), Archbishop of Bulawayo 2005
- His Eminence [Walter Cardinal Kasper](#) 2006
- Rev Prof [Gustavo Guterrez](#) OP 2008
- Rt Rev [Kevin Dowling](#), Bishop of Rustenburg 2011
- Rev Fr [Albert Nolan](#) OP 2015

The ceremony took place at a graduation ceremony on Friday 5 May 2017. The citation read immediately before the presentation made reference to the outstanding contributions made by **Brother Jude** to the Church and the wider society in South Africa.

In the second half of the 1970's, the desegregation of our “registered for whites only”-Catholic schools was a major challenge for the Church. At that time, Jude was elected Chairman of the Education Council of Associations of Religious. As such, he ensured that by and large the Catholic schools adopted a united stand against the bureaucracy of the state, e.g. not backing down against threats of deregistration, refusing to comply with regulations to provide detailed motivation for the admission of each “non-white” child, and reducing state grants for schools that exceeded quotas for the number of non-whites admitted. During this period he was assisted by religious in the day-to-day issues, and could rely on **Archbishop Denis Hurley** of Durban or Bishop George Daniel of Pretoria to make themselves available for yet another meeting with the Minister of Education or a Provincial Administrator.

In 1985, the Southern African Catholic Bishops (SACBC) Conference asked Jude to establish the Catholic Institute of Education (CIE) to “provide in-service



St Augustine College of South Africa

**S**aint Augustine College of South Africa, founded in 1999, the first Catholic university in the country, specialises in theology, philosophy, ethics and education, with an emphasis on studies that promote the common good of society. Three African Marist Brothers (respectively from South Africa, Malawi and Rwanda) have received a Masters degree from this institution.

Unlike many universities, the highest honour it bestows on a person is not an Honorary Doctorate, but the **BONUM COMMUNE** award<sup>1</sup>. This award is the highest that St Augustine is able to bestow; it seeks to honour those who have made an outstanding contribution to the common good, or who have made a significant and exceptional contribution to the academic endeavour, particularly those who have

<sup>1</sup> Latin for “COMMON GOOD”.

training for Catholics in the teaching profession and pre-service formation of Catholics in state teacher training institutions". That he succeeded in doing so was largely due to assistance from Bishop Hans Brenninkmeyer. In 1988, Br Jude had to leave the CIE, leaving its further development in other hands. This body continues to be a significant resource for the Catholic schools of the country.

Jude's time as Secretary General of the SACBC spanned the last five years of apartheid (with its states of emergency) and the first few years of a democratic South Africa. This period of our history was bedevilled by on-going acts of violence in many parts of the country. Many crises were being referred to the offices of the SACBC. Cardinal Wilfrid Napier, Bishop Reginald Ormond, Archbishop George Daniel and Archbishop Ambrose de Paoli (then Nuncio to South Africa) "were at most a phone call away during those years which saw, among other things, the destruction of the Secretariat's office by the Vlakplaas Unit." The staff of the Bishops' Justice and Peace Department "were always ready to lend a hand come what may."

Within the Institute of the Marist Brothers, Jude served as Provincial Superior of South Africa for nine years beginning in January 1975, and then for a further nine years beginning in 1996 (three for the Province of South Africa, and six for the newly-formed Province of Southern Africa covering six countries).



Another significant step in Jude's life was the challenge, in 2005, by Peter Derckx and Hans Wennink of Stichting Porticus for him to start a programme of skills training. In due course, this led to the CIE Thabiso Skills Project a support agency for faith-based skills-development centres, and the great work that is ongoing today.

Apart from Br Jude, another well-known South African, **Mr Paddy Kearney**, was similarly honoured on this occasion. Paddy had been a Marist Brother for some ten years in the 1960's, before moving to Durban and becoming involved in higher education and later working in the church on social justice issues under apartheid. When the Christian churches of the greater

Durban area decided to set up the Diakonia Centre (later to become the Diakonia Council of Churches), they appointed Paddy to be its director (later CEO), a position he held from March 1976 to 2004.

The main task of Diakonia has always been to help people in the churches to get involved in issues of injustice and human rights violation. When people are suffering, the churches often respond well to the immediate need - many local churches run soup kitchens, collect blankets in winter, pack food parcels for the poor and those affected by HIV/AIDS. But the challenge of Diakonia is deeper. It has tried to help people in the churches think through to the root causes of the problems that so many suffer. It has required that the question "Why?" be asked, if necessary over and over again. And it has helped the churches to really link their actions with the faith they proclaim Sunday by Sunday.

In Diakonia, he worked closely with the late **Archbishop Denis Hurley** (an affiliated member of the Marist Brothers) and many other Christian leaders over the years, and established good relations with the other major faith traditions in the area, Muslim and Hindu.

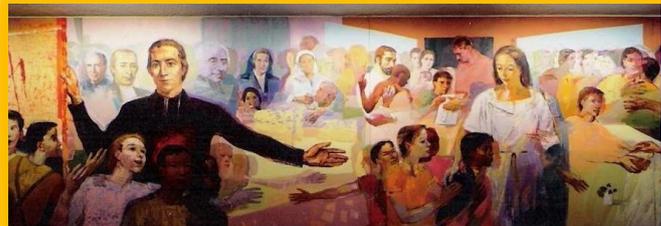
After the death of the Archbishop in 2004, he engaged in writing a magisterial biography of Denis Hurley, and continues further research into his correspondence.

In recent years, he has been the driving force behind the creation of the recently-opened Denis Hurley Centre in a very busy part of Durban's CBD, situated between the Catholic Cathedral and the Grey Street mosque, the biggest in the city. The Centre aims to serve the needs of the poorest people of Durban. In doing so it honours and co-operates with people of all faith traditions. The Centre welcomes South Africans as well as migrants and refugees, offering largely free services through its clinic, feeding scheme, vocational training, educational and community support, and pastoral outreach.



**Paddy Kearney, the future Denis Hurley Centre, and Emmanuel Cathedral**

During the course of delivering the citation, Dr Douglas Irvine made several allusions to the influence of **Saint Marcellin Champagnat** and on the two awardees. Both of them attended a Marist School, and both professed as Marist Brothers, though three years apart. And both had worked closely with Archbishop Denis Hurley over the years. The speaker also referred to our bicentenary and the 150<sup>th</sup> year of our presence in South Africa.



After the handover of the certificate, Br Jude expressed a few words of sincere thanks and appreciation to St Augustine for bestowing on him the *Bonum Commune* Award and “finally, I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my fellow Marist Brothers for their unstinting support and encouragement over the years.” On the next day, speaking to the present editor, Jude mentioned that he was particularly touched by the references to our Founder and his charism.



## BYZANTINE ICON REPRESENTS 3 YEARS OF PREPARATION FOR THE BICENTENNIAL



**T**his Byzantine style icon has been made this year, in the form of a hagiographic triptych, written by Nektarios Mamaïs, a teacher of theology at the Léonin High School in Nea Smyrni-Athens, represents the three years of preparation for the celebration of the Marist Bicentennial:

1. **MONTAGNE YEAR:** "Meeting with the young Jean-Baptiste Montagne"
2. **LA VALLA YEAR:** "Saint Marcellin and the first Marist community in La Valla"

### 3. FOURVIÈRE YEAR: "The Promise to the Virgin Mary"

The Icon symbolizes the relationship between the Byzantine tradition and the Marist tradition, a relationship that the Marist, Orthodox and Catholic Brothers and Laity live in daily life in Greece, sharing faith, prayer, spirituality, spirit Community and mission.

It is an icon painted on wood and is displayed in the chapel of the community of Agia Kyriaki in Athens.

